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WITH REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING
OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL
COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES

REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS VISITING MISSION TO TOKELAU, 1994

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INTRODUCTION

A. Terms of reference

1. In a letter dated 20 May 1993 addressed to the Chairman of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, the Permanent Representative of New Zealand to the United Nations conveyed to the Committee an invitation from his Government to dispatch a United Nations visiting mission to Tokelau in 1994 (A/AC.109/1162). In a message dated April 1994 to the Chairman of the Special Committee, the Council of Faipule of Tokelau indicated that it was looking forward to presenting to the Visiting Mission the thinking and aspirations of the people of Tokelau about its final political status and/or destination. Further, in a statement to the Subcommittee on Small Territories, Petitions, Information and Assistance, at its 684th meeting on 24 May 1994, the Special Representative of the Council of Faipule stated that the visit of the Mission would provide an opportunity to see firsthand the developments which had taken place in the Territory since the last United Nations Visiting Mission in 1986.

2. At its 1417th meeting on 12 July 1993, the Special Committee accepted the invitation. At its 75th plenary meeting on 10 December 1993, the General Assembly, in its resolution 48/51, welcomed the invitation of the administering Power to the Special Committee to dispatch a visiting mission to Tokelau in 1994.

B. Composition of the Mission

3. At the 1431st meeting of the Special Committee on 11 July 1994, the Acting Chairman informed the members that following consultations with the regional groups, it was decided that the Visiting Mission would be composed of Chile, Papua New Guinea, Sierra Leone and Tunisia. The Mission would visit the Territory from the fourth week of July until the first week of August.

4. The following delegates represented their countries as members of the Mission: His Excellency Mr. Amor Ardhaoui of Tunisia, Chairman of the Subcommittee on Small Territories, Petitions, Information and Assistance, and Chairman of the Visiting Mission; His Excellency Mr. Utula Utuoc Samana of Papua New Guinea; Mr. Andrew Bangali, Sierra Leone, Vice-Chairman of the Special Committee of 24; and Ms. Cecilia Mackenna, Chile, Vice-Chairman and Rapporteur of the Subcommittee on Small Territories, Petitions, Information and Assistance.

5. The Mission was accompanied by two staff members of the United Nations Secretariat: Mr. Nour Eddine Driss, Principal Secretary/Senior Political Affairs Officer; and Ms. Carole Davis, Administrative Officer/Secretary.

6. Mr. Lindsay Watt, Administrator of Tokelau, accompanied the Mission to Tokelau.

C. Acknowledgements

7. The Mission wishes to express its profound gratitude to the Ulu-o-Tokelau (highest authority of Tokelau), the faipule (elected heads of each atoll), pulenuku (village mayors) and the people of Atafu, Nukunonu and Fakaofo for their full cooperation and warm hospitality.

8. The members of the Mission would also like to extend their special thanks to Mr. Logotasi Iosefa, Manager of the Tokelau-Apia Liaison Office, and his staff; Mr. Lindsay Watt, Administrator of Tokelau; and Mr. Anthony R. Patten, Resident Representative and Resident Coordinator, United Nations Development Programme, in Apia, Samoa, for the assistance they provided to the Mission throughout its visit.

9. The Mission wishes to place on record its deep appreciation to the Government of New Zealand for the close cooperation, assistance and courtesies extended to the Mission during the consultations in Wellington.

D. Courtesy calls

10. The Mission paid a courtesy call on Mr. Tuilaepa Sailele Malielegaoi, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance of Samoa, to whom the Chairman transmitted the wishes of the Tokelauans to continue and reinforce their cooperation with his country. Mr. Malielegaoi informed the Mission that Samoa maintained very close ties with Tokelau and that it would continue with its assistance to the Territory.

I. INFORMATION ON THE TERRITORY

11. Tokelau, a Non-Self-Governing Territory administered by New Zealand since 1925 (previously part of the British colony of the Gilbert and Ellice Islands), consists of three groups of small reef-scattered atolls in the South Pacific (nearly 500 kilometres north of Samoa) with a total land area of 12.2 square kilometres. Nukunonu (4.7 square kilometres), the central atoll, is 92 kilometres from Atafu (3.5 square kilometres) and 64 kilometres from Fakaofo (4.0 square kilometres). Tokelau is highly vulnerable to cyclones, the last two having occurred in 1990 and 1991, and to any climatic changes.

12. According to the 1991 census, the population of Tokelau was 1,577, of which 543 lived on Atafu, 597 on Fakaofo and 437 on Nukunonu. Each atoll group contains from 30 to 50 reef-bound islets (motu) varying in length from 90 metres to six kilometres and in width from a few metres to 200 metres. In Fakaofo, two motu are inhabited: Fale and Fenuafala; Atafu and Nukunonu have one inhabited motu each. It is estimated that between 3,000 and 4,000 Tokelauans have settled in New Zealand and a few hundred more in Samoa. There is evidence that Tokelau has been inhabited for about 1,000 years. The family, including the extended family, is the core of social organization, with the village (nuku) being the foundation of Tokelauan society. Community welfare is paramount in what has been traditionally a subsistence environment. Tokelauans have linguistic, family and cultural links with other Pacific islands, notably Samoa and Tuvalu.

13. Ocean and lagoon fish form a stable constituent of the local diet. There is no significant agricultural activity due to a limited and infertile coral land. The coconut palm and breadfruit tree provide the main food crops. Other edibles such as pandanus fruit and taro are also available in limited quantities. Meat is imported although villagers raise pigs and chickens.

14. The principal institution of government in Tokelau is the General Fono (Council), which establishes policies for the administration of the Territory, takes decisions on the allocation of budgetary resources and makes policy decisions in all areas affecting Tokelauan life. The General Fono comprises nine representatives from each atoll chosen by its respective taupulega (Council of Elders), the principal organ of administration on each of the three atolls. The three taupulega are presided over by the faipule, who are the three joint chairmen of the General Fono. The pulenuku are equivalent to the village mayors. They are responsible for the day-to-day administration of village affairs, the scheduling of work, the supplying of water and, in some instances, the resolving of land disputes. No major policy question is approved by the Administrator or the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade without the endorsement of the General Fono.

15. In September 1992, Tokelau decided to establish a Council of Faipule to provide government when the General Fono was not in session. The Faipule would select one of their number to be Ulu-o-Tokelau, a recognized leader of the Government, for a rotational term of one year. In January 1994, with a new constitutional package put in place, the powers of the Administrator of Tokelau were delegated to the General Fono and, when not in session, to the Council of Faipule. In the same month, the Tokelau Public Service was transferred from Apia, Samoa, to Tokelau. (For further details concerning information on the Territory, see the working paper prepared by the Secretariat on Tokelau (A/AC.109/1193)).

II. ACTIVITIES OF THE MISSION

A. Meetings at Apia (Samoa)

1. Meeting with specialized agencies and organizations of the United Nations system

16. On 22 July 1994, the Mission held a meeting at the office of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) with representatives of UNDP, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the World Health Organization (WHO) to discuss their operations in Tokelau.

17. The UNDP Resident Representative informed the Mission of the assistance being provided by UNDP to Tokelau since 1979 and of its recent efforts to help the Territory in its delicate transition process. Funds had been made available for a transitional management project and services had been rendered by a United Nations volunteer to the Office for Tokelau Affairs in the field of planning and community affairs development.

18. The Resident Representative explained that in 1993, owing to damage previously caused by Cyclone Val to several buildings in Tokelau, UNDP spent US$ 45,000 on a project aimed at repairing and reinforcing vital structures with a view to protecting them against future damage.

19. The Mission was informed that the UNDP Third Country Programme for Tokelau (1992-1996) was based on an indicative planning figure of US$ 1,331,000 and had been formulated following consultations between Tokelau, New Zealand and the specialized agencies concerned. The strategy for determining UNDP cooperation included careful review of government priority needs and focused on the development of telecommunications. Some of the activities undertaken under the previous programmes would also continue to receive assistance, particularly those in the fields of management capacity-building and water supply.

20. Telecommunications with the outside world and between Tokelau's three main atolls are limited to a single channel radio link provided by UNDP which permits communication either between two atolls in Tokelau or between one atoll in Tokelau and Apia. The limitations of this system were demonstrated to the Mission during its visit to the Office for Tokelau Affairs in Apia. Improvements were considered essential by UNDP, which was also planning to upgrade available skills in modern communication technology. A total of US$ 919,000, or approximately 70 per cent of the indicative planning figure is allocated to this sector. In that connection the International Telecommunication Union (ITU)/UNDP are developing a satellite earth station project for Tokelau, in which New Zealand and Tokelau funds will also be involved. In the meantime New Zealand is installing a Pan-Pacific Education and Communication Experiment by Satellite (PEACESAT) link with each atoll.

21. The programme planning prepared by UNDP and made available to the Mission describes other areas of assistance provided outside the main country programme. The follow-up project to the ongoing Development Training and Technical Services Project, which deals with management capacity-building, is designed to strengthen local institutions on the atolls and to upgrade the capability of public servants. Fifteen per cent of indicative planning figure (US$ 200,000) is allocated for the project. A second area of ongoing assistance is the completion of the Water Supply Project for which a total of US$ 212,000 has been committed. In addition to these two projects, the cyclone rehabilitation project for the construction of the seawall, begun in 1991, will also continue during the Third Country Programme.

22. The Resident Representative told the Mission that Tokelau participated in a number of regional programmes aimed at promoting self-reliance. He also said that UNDP was assisting the Territory in the drafting of its legal system.

23. The representative of UNESCO said that although Tokelau was not a member of the organization, it had participated in a limited number of programmes through the New Zealand National Commission for UNESCO. Tokelau had taken part in the high-level consultative meetings of the education sector held at Suva, Fiji, at the end of May 1994.

24. Tokelau is receiving direct assistance under the Basic Education and Life Skills Programme with funding allocated for primary and literacy education;

educational systems planning and management; curriculum innovations for life skills; and programme implementation and appraisal. UNESCO has also encouraged the collection of oral history and traditions as well as the participation of Tokelau in the Festival of Pacific Arts, a regional cultural activity programme.

25. In 1991, at the request of the Government of New Zealand, the UNESCO Communication Sector funded a two-part radio broadcasting feasibility study for Tokelau covering transmission systems and studio facilities. The representative of UNESCO informed the Mission that 98 per cent of the people of Tokelau are literate.

26. The representative of FAO told the Mission that there were no country projects for Tokelau since it was not a member of the organization; assistance was available, however, through regional projects which cover a number of countries in the region that are members of UNDP. Such assistance was provided Tokelau in the fields of forestry development and fisheries. The Regional Fisheries Support and National Capacity-Building programmes assisted Tokelau in establishing private sector linkage with alternative tuna product development and marketing.

27. The representative of WHO informed the Mission that Tokelau, as an associate member, attended regional meetings and received benefits from a number of programmes. It had a healthy population and reasonably good health service infrastructure. He suggested, however, improvement to X-ray equipment as well as to the operating facilities on Nukunonu. WHO had been actively involved with the Tokelau Department of Health in planning programmes concerning needs for the future. A regular country programme budget of approximately US$ 50,000 for the current biennium had been provided for the Territory. In addition, US$ 20,000 was available for the prevention of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS). WHO had also collaborated with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in the establishment of a maternal, child health and family planning programme for Tokelau. WHO provided funds for the participation of Tokelauans at WHO training workshops and regional meetings. A WHO fellowship enabled a medical undergraduate to undergo training in Fiji. In September 1994, an associate professional water and sanitation engineer from WHO would be assisting Tokelauans in this field. The organization supported an immunization programme aimed at providing 100 per cent population coverage. WHO also provided direct support for programmes involving managerial development in health services, primary health care and health promotion.

28. The WHO representative informed the Mission that certain diseases associated with modern western lifestyles had begun to appear in Tokelau. There was a high rate of cigarette consumption. Infant and maternal mortality rates, however, were low. He stressed the need for addressing medical emergencies.

2. Meeting at the Office for Tokelau Affairs

29. On 22 July 1994, the Mission paid a visit to the Tokelau-Apia Liaison Office. It was met by its Manager, Mr. Logotasi Iosefa; Mr. Tino Vitale, Director of Transport, Communication, Youth and Sports; and other staff members. In a brief statement, Mr. Iosefa informed the Mission that Tokelau was

experiencing an exciting period during which major changes were occurring. All departments of the Public Service were relocating to Tokelau, although he would remain at Apia to serve as a liaison officer. The Mission was given a tour of the offices, including the warehouse containing cargo and merchandise to be shipped to Tokelau. Members of the Mission were given a demonstration of the telecommunications system via a radio linking Apia to the Territory.

3. Meeting with Faipule Keli Neemia, Ulu-o-Tokelau, at Apia

30. After having returned from New Zealand where he had held discussions with representatives of the Government, the Ulu met with the Visiting Mission at the UNDP office at Apia on 25 July 1994. The Ulu had visited the Tokelauan communities living in New Zealand and Samoa as part of the Territory's policy of maintaining close links with them. The Ulu had informed those communities of new developments in Tokelau and had sought their comments and advice. He estimated that some 400 to 500 people had attended the meetings. In Apia, the Ulu met with representatives of the Samoan Government and explored economic opportunities for Tokelauan products.

31. The Ulu told the Mission that Tokelau had relied almost exclusively on New Zealand's assistance which he hoped would continue. The people of Tokelau were gaining more confidence with regard to their economic development and had started investigating new ways and means to better exploit their own resources. In this regard, the Territory would need well-trained people and it hoped to attract its own expatriates and entice them to return and participate in building the new Tokelau. He emphasized the need for a greater degree of self-sufficiency through some income-generating measures.

32. The Ulu informed the Mission that discussions in New Zealand had focused on the evolution of the internal institutions of Tokelau in view of the final act of self-determination. The Ulu elaborated on the issue of the delegation of powers from the Administrator to the General Fono and Council of Faipule, as well as on the question of the relationship between the Public Service, the General Fono and the Council of Faipule. The three Faipule were assuming ministerial responsibilities.

33. Another concern raised by the Ulu was the definition of his role. His position as chairman of the General Fono did not allow him much time to concentrate on other important functions. To remedy this situation, the leadership was exploring the possibility of creating the post of Speaker of the General Fono. A review of the institutions would bring about a change in the process of selection of the members of the General Fono who are currently chosen by the villages. There was a need to stabilize and consolidate those choices to achieve a sense of continuity. The Faipule had held both executive and judicial powers but the recent designation of law commissioners had enabled the roles to be separated.

34. An important new development was the General Fono decision to allow Tokelauans living abroad to send representatives to attend General Fono meetings in Tokelau. This was in line with the Government's efforts to attract its expatriates to return to the Territory. The Fono also agreed to consider the

possibility of providing financial assistance to promising Tokelauan students in New Zealand. The Ulu also discussed the emerging active role of women in society and their participation in the work of the General Fono.

35. The Ulu informed the Mission that he had met with the Prime Minister of Samoa for the first time on 18 July 1994 and considered the encounter as the beginning of a lasting and fruitful relationship between the leaders of the two Governments. He had taken the opportunity to inform the Prime Minister of the political changes taking place in Tokelau. The Ulu explained that the relocation of the public service to Tokelau should not be interpreted as a sign that the level of relations between the two countries was being downgraded; in fact, contacts would be maintained through the Liaison Office at Apia. Tokelau would continue to make use of the Samoan health care system as well as its schools. It still considered Samoa as its major link to the outside world. In this connection, the Ulu expressed concern over the consequences of the relocation on the students and people seeking medical care in Apia who would be deprived of a number of host families to accommodate them. The Ulu said that the Prime Minister was supportive of the developments taking place in Tokelau and had expressed understanding for the decision to move the public service closer to the people it was intended to serve.

36. In response to a question relating to Tokelau's ability to generate income, the Ulu said that the fishing sector would be a primary source of revenue. The Administrator, who was present at the meeting, indicated that in a five-year period beginning in mid-1988, the Territory had received US$ 1,730,000 under a fishing treaty with the United States of America. In the same period additional funding of US$ 422,000 was available under the treaty to Tokelau for development projects. Other potential means of raising revenue were duty on alcohol and cigarettes, as well as taxes on salaries of public servants. Tokelau would not, however, consider asking the Government of New Zealand to remit the taxes paid by Tokelauans living in New Zealand. At the end of the meeting, the Ulu-o-Tokelau solemnly presented the Mission with copies of the National Strategic Plan.

B. Meetings in Tokelau

1. Meetings in Atafu

37. On 26 July 1994, the Visiting Mission travelled on the MV Cape Don, a freighter, to Tokelau where it arrived on Atafu in the morning of 28 July. In a statement of welcome, the Pulenuku thanked the United Nations for the support given to Tokelau, mentioning in particular UNDP participation in the building of a seawall and the implementation of the water management programme. He also underlined New Zealand's constant support and recalled Tokelau's refusal to become part of either Samoa or the Cook Islands. The Faipule addressed the Mission and emphasized Tokelau's desire to continue its relationship with New Zealand. In his reply, the Chairman of the Visiting Mission laid down the objectives of the visit and thanked the people of Tokelau for the opportunity afforded to the United Nations to observe developments which had taken place in the Territory since the last Visiting Mission in 1986. He expressed the hope

that the Mission would be able to see as many people as possible and discuss all matters of interest and importance with the representatives of the community.

2. Meeting with the taupulega in Atafu

38. The Mission subsequently held a meeting with the taupulega of Atafu (Council of Elders), during which participants noted the unity of the Tokelauans living on the atolls who are bound by one language and a common ancestry. Their isolation from the outside world dictated the shape of the political solutions to their specific problems. They acknowledged, and were willing to discuss, the profound changes which had taken place in Tokelau since the last Visiting Mission. The people demanded a larger degree of participation in the affairs of their homeland and were looking forward to full self-government.

39. The Tokelauans informed the Mission that they had had ample opportunity to review all aspects relating to the question of self-determination but were unwilling to make a hasty decision. They were aware that the year 2000 was the target date set by the General Assembly for the eradication of colonialism; they felt, however, that this time-frame did not allow them sufficient time to comprehend all the implications of a final act of self-determination and enable them to build a secure foundation for their future. One participant requested specifically that the target year 2000 be reconsidered in the case of Tokelau so as not to endanger further the Territory's already fragile conditions. Further, they needed more time to address new and complex issues such as the environment, sustainable development and accountability.

40. Another speaker expressed the anguish of the community concerning the introduction of outside influences which could undermine their traditional way of life. Alcohol consumption, which was formally banned in the Territory, was of special concern to the elders who continue to administer the laws. Owing to the difficulties arising from the enforcement of the ban among the younger generation, the elders were being forced to review the system of values regulating their society and to adapt thereto elements from a modern lifestyle. By such concession, the leaders were trying to minimize damage to, and eliminate any negative impact on, the Territory's efforts to find an acceptable balance between tradition and modern values.

41. In this connection, Tokelauans admitted that they were facing new challenges in their attempt to include women and the youth in the decision-making process. They also acknowledged their unfamiliarity with the concepts of free expression of opinion, individual freedoms and the right of the people to deliberate over matters affecting them. It was felt that the approach to these concerns should be guided by great sensitivity while keeping in mind the necessity to maintain harmony among the villagers.

42. The Council of Elders had a chance to review the National Strategic Plan before its endorsement by the General Fono in June 1994. They were confident that the document would bring a positive contribution to their lives and they expressed their gratitude to the representatives who participated in its formulation. Despite some reservations by some elders, it was agreed that the

document represented the views of the majority of Tokelauans and would become the charter that would guide the future of the population.

3. Meeting with the Director of Education

43. The Mission toured the school of Atafu and met the Director of Education and Women's Affairs who in a statement, explained that the Department of Education of Tokelau was going through an exciting period leading to changes intended to meet the growing needs of the people. It was necessary to upgrade the school system and to expand the human resources available in order to meet those needs. The Director noted that the relocation of the Department from Apia to Tokelau would contribute to the improvement of services provided for education and to the necessary development in the field of women's affairs.

4. Visit to fishery in Atafu

44. The Mission visited a fishery project which had been established in 1987 and closed subsequently because the limited scale of its output had resulted in a lack of marketing opportunities.

5. Meeting with the taupulega in Nukunonu

45. The Mission arrived in Nukunonu on 29 July. It was informed by the Faipule that despite the fears associated with an act of self-determination, the community in Nukunonu and the population in Tokelau, in general, were ready to proceed with that act because such a decision would give them more control over their own affairs. They would be able to study the positive influences from the outside world and adapt them to their islands, at the same time acquiring the necessary means to help themselves earn a decent living. He also spoke about the role of women in society, noting that women had not been given the responsibility and respect commensurate with their growing position in the decision-making process and in all matters affecting Tokelauans.

46. The Pulenuku of Nukunonu expressed his concern over the question of self-determination and its implications. He described the simple and self-sufficient way of life in Tokelau in the past when almost nothing was imported and when good, practical items were made of locally produced or available materials. Now the Territory was relying heavily on imports of all sorts. He wondered whether they would have the necessary resources and means to afford the same level of development following the act of self-determination. He concluded by saying that more time was needed to assess the financial capabilities of Tokelau before making any decisions regarding a change in its current status.

47. One major crop in the Territory, copra, was no longer providing revenue for Tokelau because of heavy damage caused by natural disasters, transport problems, and marketing techniques not yet fully understood. The Pulenuku believed, however, that in the future, a gradual improvement in copra production as well as better use of marine resources could help alleviate some of the pressing economic problems. Through fishing agreements with vessels from the United

States, the Territory was earning fees from its exclusive economic zone which, according to the Faipule, could be reviewed with a view to increasing revenue.

48. The Mission was informed that since Tokelau may require financial assistance from New Zealand for a long time, it first had to ascertain whether such assistance would continue before it could make a final decision with regard to self-determination.

6. Visit to hospital in Nukunonu

49. On the same day, the Mission paid a visit to the hospital on Nukunonu. The Medical Director informed them that Tokelauans had access to the basic social benefits that corresponded to their economic situation. With the help of New Zealand and specialized agencies of the United Nations, they enjoyed adequate housing conditions, a good supply of water and basic sanitation conditions. Endemic diseases were under control and the Department of Health was working closely with WHO to institute a system based on the primary health care approach. There was a comprehensive and continuous immunization programme. One of the main features of the Territory's health policy was the establishment of a health education unit whose objective was the study and control of health hazards resulting from the rapidly changing way of life. There were health facilities on the other atolls but the largest one was on Nukunonu. The Department of Health, supervised by the Faipule of Nukunonu in his capacity as Ministry of Health, was proposing the creation of the positions of programme coordinator and health administration officer. Currently, there were three nurse managers, each working in one of the three hospitals.

50. The Department of Health is proposing for 1994/95 the institution of an appropriate managerial process for health care development. Its objective is to strengthen the management and planning capabilities of health care personnel at the senior and middle-management levels. Good health services depend on a functional communication system for attending to emergencies. Such a system is also necessary for maintaining contacts with the outside world - for continuous health education through exchanges with neighbouring hospitals and other institutions.

7. Informal meeting with representatives of Nukunonu

51. The Visiting Mission held an informal meeting with representatives of the community of Nukunonu during which participants talked of the proposed changes in the status of Tokelau in relation to its vital needs. They thought that priority should be given to the system of telecommunications which had undergone no changes for the last 40 to 50 years. Before addressing the question of self-determination, the development of a better sea transport system and the construction of airstrips on the atolls should be dealt with. They also noted the absence of a direct transportation link with New Zealand and confirmed that all contacts must pass through Samoa. The participants reiterated that they were in no position to make a decision on self-determination before the year 2000.

8. Meeting with the taupulega of Fakaofo

52. The members present expressed their appreciation for the close relationship between Tokelau and the Special Committee and for the support they continued to receive from New Zealand. They felt reassured that they would not be forced into making a hasty decision regarding their future political status.

53. The acting Faipule listed as one of Tokelau's priorities the question of Swains Island. He told the Mission that in the past, the chief of Fakaofo had designated and sent people to live on Swains. In view of the importance of the issue, the people of Fakaofo raised this question with the Visiting Mission particularly because they had heard it might be discussed more readily before an act of self-determination.

54. The 1983 Treaty between New Zealand and the United States of America on the Delimitation of the Maritime Boundary between Tokelau and the United States of America was also signed by the three Faipule. 1/ The acting Faipule stated, however, that Tokelauans believed that their leaders did not, or could not, read all the implications of the treaty. The leaders of Tokelau asked the Visiting Mission for advice and assistance as to the best way to reintegrate Swains Island.

55. The Administrator of Tokelau said that he was present at the meeting of the General Fono in June when the question of Swains Island was discussed. The Mission was told that Tokelauans had been advised that it would be better to address the question before exercising their right to self-determination. The Administrator said that the Mission would have the opportunity to seek further clarification on Swains Island during its meetings in New Zealand.

56. The acting Faipule raised another issue which he felt was of great importance to the elders of Fakaofo: democracy and its impact on the composition of the General Fono. At present, representatives of the General Fono were chosen on the basis of equal representation of the atolls. He expressed the view that according to democratic principles, the number of delegates from each atoll to the Fono should be in direct proportion to the number of people living in each atoll; Fakaofo, therefore, which has the largest population of the three, should have more delegates. He informed the Mission that there had been numerous inconclusive discussions on the subject at various General Fono meetings.

57. The people of Fakaofo were concerned by the testing of nuclear devices by France in the Pacific, the dumping of nuclear waste in the area, and the size of fish nets being used by foreign vessels in the region.

58. In conclusion, the acting Faipule asked the United Nations to maintain a dialogue with Tokelau and its leaders with regard to the question of self-determination. He suggested that the United Nations provide advice and assistance during Tokelau's ongoing discussions with New Zealand in order to help find the most suitable solution. A sound economic base must be established before any decision could be made.

9. Ulu-o-Tokelau presents "Tokelau's Voice"

59. The Visiting Mission was invited to transmit to the United Nations a solemn declaration on the future status of Tokelau (see annex I) delivered by the Ulu-o-Tokelau in the presence of the Administrator of Tokelau, the Faipules, the Pulenukus and representatives of the elders, the women, the youth and the churches of Tokelau.

60. The Ulu of Tokelau noted that previous United Nations Visiting Missions had concluded their work following discussions held during their visits to the three atolls. This Visiting Mission, however, had added an important item to its programme, a formal meeting with the assembled leadership of the Territory. It was the first time that Tokelau's representatives were addressing the United Nations as one people from one nation.

61. The Ulu recognized the fact that Tokelau could no longer avoid the issue of controlling its own destiny and therefore had to go through the necessary adjustments of its institutions. Tokelauans were determined not to undermine the foundation of their society and to preserve their cultural and social values in the process of acquiring a new sense as a nation. They were also doing their utmost to limit their increasing reliance on imported goods.

62. Tokelau's aspirations could only be achieved through proper interaction with other external forces, particularly those represented by the Government of New Zealand and the United Nations. This was the reason the Ulu, on behalf of the entire leadership of Tokelau, had seized this opportunity to come before the Visiting Mission and the representative of the Government of New Zealand to submit his nation's blueprint for negotiating its act of self-determination.

63. Tokelau was aware of the fact that the process of decolonization had entered a new and complex phase which demanded innovative approaches to challenges facing the remaining Territories. Further, it agreed with the Special Committee's view that the question of territorial size, geographical isolation and limited resources should not constitute an obstacle to the exercise by the people of Non-Self-Governing Territories of their right to self-determination. Tokelau wished to ascertain its identity but first needed to ensure a solid economic foundation to avoid the hardships and the numerous challenges facing some of its neighbours who had recently exercised their right to self-determination. Tokelauans had observed that some of these countries which had achieved nationhood had, in certain instances, become more dependent economically.

64. In this connection, the executive arm of the Government of Tokelau - the Council of Faipule - was preparing to undertake a four-nation study tour of neighbouring countries to observe conditions there and to explore ways and means of establishing new relations based on mutual understanding and cooperation.

65. The Ulu stressed that the relationship with New Zealand was not of a colonial nature and therefore Tokelau was not a "colonized country". He also said that the Government of New Zealand was not hindering Tokelau's path towards self-determination.

66. Tokelau recognized fully that it was compelled to consider serious its act of self-determination but did not set a timetable at this stage. It was, however, anxious to assume more responsibilities in view of its internal self-government.

67. A constitution of a self-governing Tokelau was under active consideration by the people of Tokelau. Tokelau also wished to advance self-government by having a national legislative power to match the newly acquired executive authority and the existing judicial structure. At its next session, the General Fono, through its Working Committee on Political and Constitutional Developments, would consider electing members instead of having them selected by the Council of Elders.

68. Further, since 1986, Tokelau had had a judicial system set up by New Zealand, and it was the Territory's desire to make the necessary structural arrangements to streamline the whole legal infrastructure in view of its full applicability at the local level. After self-determination, Tokelau would seek from the Government of New Zealand the continuation of those elements of the judicial system which are currently reliant on the New Zealand judicial structure.

69. In his statement, the Ulu said that during the period preceding the act of self-determination, Tokelau would, in consultation with the Government of New Zealand, seek clarifications on a number of territorial issues, especially those concerning the exclusive economic zone and Swains Island. With regard to the latter, as far back as 1926, the Chief of the three atolls of Tokelau had argued that the island belonged to their forefathers and should not have been alienated; this statement, however, had not been recorded.

70. The act of self-determination of Tokelau was under active consideration by the people of Tokelau who had concluded that their country in its present form could not survive without the level of financial support it received from New Zealand. It would need expertise in various fields, such as environmental protection, and, because of its limited experience in international affairs and defence, it would ask the Government of New Zealand to carry out those responsibilities on its behalf, but always subject to any change requested by Tokelau, and only after consultations with Tokelau.

71. New Zealand citizenship and free movement to and from metropolitan New Zealand should continue, taking into account the non-reciprocal nature of the free movement arrangements. Tokelau would also like to maintain the currency of New Zealand as its legal tender. 2/ In conclusion, the leadership of Tokelau strongly favoured a future status of free association with New Zealand that would include executive, legislative, administrative and fiscal independence for the Territory.

72. The statement of the Ulu referred also to the assistance received by Tokelau from the United Nations specialized agencies. The Mission was requested to record the Territory's appreciation for the continuous support given by UNDP and WHO, manifested through the water catchment and seawall programmes. The new telecommunications system, which was expected to be fully operational in 1995, would benefit significantly from funding assistance by UNDP. The statement also

included a formal request for financial support from UNDP for the special forthcoming constitutional endeavour which would come about in the next two to three years. The Ulu thanked the Government of New Zealand, on behalf of the people and Government of Tokelau, for its continuing support.

C. Meetings in New Zealand

1. Meeting with Sir Robin Gray, Associate Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade

73. The Mission met briefly with Sir Robin Gray, Associate Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, before proceeding with him to the meeting with the Minister. He stressed New Zealand's support for the moves Tokelau was carrying through towards self-government, and underlined the importance of administrative reform to ensure that the public service was responsive to the needs of the local population and that the main executive features were defined.

74. When asked how New Zealand would assist Tokelau's progress towards self-government, Minister Gray noted the necessity to give Tokelau a legislative power. He believed the New Zealand Parliament would take this step as soon as possible. He said Tokelau's approach in the past had been cautious, which was understandable given its isolation. Tokelauans had to work things through for themselves, but not without the help of New Zealand. New Zealand had been, and would continue to be, supportive of Tokelau.

75. The Administrator of Tokelau said that a new criminal law had been developed in discussion with Tokelau elders over several years, and would soon be promulgated. It would better reflect Tokelau custom. This would facilitate the work of the newly appointed law commissioners or lay judges.

2. Meeting with Mr. Don McKinnon, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade

76. Mr. McKinnon noted that Tokelauans living in New Zealand often intervened with the Government of New Zealand on behalf of Tokelau and stressed their concern with regard to the future status of the Territory. Assistance to Tokelau would go on for many years and the free movement of persons would continue. New Zealand supported and promoted self-government to whatever level Tokelau wished to take on and would uphold the final decision of Tokelau as long as it was acceptable to the United Nations.

77. With regard to Swains Island, the Minister requested the Administrator to provide the Visiting Mission with further information on the question and to furnish them with a copy of the Treaty between New Zealand and the United States of America on the Delimitation of the Maritime Boundary between Tokelau and the United States of America. 1/

78. The Minister was of the opinion that an airstrip in the Territory could improve conditions in Tokelau and that such an undertaking could be viewed favourably by the New Zealand Government provided it was the desire of the

people and proper studies were undertaken on its environmental impact. He also expressed support for the upgrading of the telecommunications system and confirmed that New Zealand was working closely with UNDP and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) on the project.

3. Meeting with the Leader of the Opposition, Ms. Helen Clark, and the former Prime Minister, Mr. David Lange

79. The leader of the Opposition told the Mission that, in her view, the Government of New Zealand should define its responsibilities towards Tokelau and encourage the Territory to continue the evolution of its internal institutions in view of the imminent attainment of self-government. The pace at which the necessary changes would be carried out should be dictated by Tokelau, however. Both the leader of the Opposition and the former Prime Minister were aware of the internal ramifications of New Zealand's relations with Tokelau on account of the sizeable number of Tokelauans living in New Zealand. Financial assistance to Tokelau would continue. They suggested the pursuit of an innovative way to exercise self-determination within the three options promoted by resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly.

4. Meeting with Mrs. Joy McLachlin, MP, Chairman of the Foreign Affairs and Defence Select Committee

80. Mrs. McLachlin underlined the importance of an act of self-determination for Tokelau's democratic process, given that this could be the first opportunity for a national, as distinct from local, vote. She said New Zealand could not impose a timetable which Tokelau might not be able to meet, or tell Tokelau what to do, but it could help with an education programme.

5. Meeting with the Tokelau Public Service Commissioners

81. In the past, the Tokelau Public Service (TPS) was headed by an Official Secretary who operated on authority delegated by the Government of New Zealand through the Administrator. The heads of the TPS departments, called Directors, reported to the Official Secretary. The Office for Tokelau Affairs, which included all the Directors and most of their staff, was located at Apia. Following a review by a New Zealand/Tokelau team in 1993, the TPS was restructured, the position of Official Secretary was disestablished, one new department (Office of the Council of Faipule) was created, and moves to relocate the public service to the atolls were set in train. Provision was made in consequence for a smaller Tokelau-Apia Liaison Office to replace the Office for Tokelau Affairs.

82. Prior to the restructuring, TPS employed some 130 permanent staff and 35 temporary staff; it is anticipated that these numbers will be significantly reduced. In 1993 the New Zealand State Services Commissioner delegated his powers to two TPS Commissioners, one currently a New Zealander and the other a Tokelauan normally resident there. The TPS Directors are now responsible to their Ministers for carrying out the policies of the General Fono. The

Commissioners make senior appointments to the Public Service following consultations with the Ministers.

6. Meeting at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade

83. Once again the Mission was assured of the commitment of the Government of New Zealand to meet its obligations to the United Nations with respect to Tokelau, as well as its responsibilities to the people of that Territory. The Deputy Secretary for Foreign Affairs and Trade reiterated his Government's commitment to continue to provide the Territory with development assistance, including budgetary assistance, and to allow free movement of people from Tokelau to New Zealand. They will also continue to hold New Zealand citizenship.

84. The Government recognized the connection between New Zealand assurances and Tokelau's progress in moving towards self-government. Receipt of the document containing the "Voice of Tokelau" would enable the Government to work through with Tokelau the areas in which assurances were sought. The need for better communications was recognized, including perhaps the building of at least one airstrip. Support was also required in other areas including foreign affairs and in regard to the judicial system and other legal matters. New Zealand recognized more generally that Tokelau was going through an evolutionary process. It needed to consolidate the new executive powers and to develop its legislative capacity. Experience would be important.

85. The Deputy Secretary for Foreign Affairs and Trade informed the Mission that the exclusive economic zone, fisheries and sea bed resources of Tokelau would be protected with maximum benefits accruing to its people. These issues had been actively discussed at the July meeting of the South Pacific Forum at Brisbane, Australia, at which the island countries expressed their concern over the low level of revenue derived from those resources.

86. With regard to Swains Island, the Government of New Zealand would be looking for the best way to handle the issue, bearing in mind the interests of the Tokelauans. He pointed out, however, that the Treaty between New Zealand and the United States was in a way beneficial to Tokelau since the United States had abandoned its claim over Tokelau's sovereignty. At the signing of the Treaty in 1980, the Fono had determined that there was an advantage in having the United States give up its claims over parts of Tokelau. There had also been practical benefits through the payment by United States fishing companies of fishing fees, although current revenue from this source was rather low. With regard to self-determination, the Mission received assurances that the Government of New Zealand would not depart from previous practices applied to other Territories under its administration and that there would be a referendum on the question based on universal suffrage.

7. Round table on "Self-Government in Free Association, with Specific Reference to New Zealand Territories, Past and Present"

87. The Mission was invited to participate in a discussion on the above topic and on the concept of "sustained autonomy - an alternative political status for small islands" attended by representatives of the New Zealand Law Commission and of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and other experts and advisers on island Territories.

88. It was noted that the distinction between internal and external affairs may neither be the right approach nor the only approach to the option of free association. The small Territories wanted to speak for themselves within their regional forums and in specialized agencies on bilateral matters. This legitimate concern can be addressed through the devolution of power on foreign affairs to associated states. This has been the experience of free association of the Cook Islands and Niue following their acts of self-determination. Although the "Voice of Tokelau" suggests Tokelau will wish New Zealand to act on its behalf in foreign affairs as it has in the past. Tokelau indicates in the same context that it would expect to be able to request a change in the arrangement should it so decide. This indicates that although the extent of involvement in foreign affairs can differ from case to case, since practical calculations of cost and benefit can differ, the principle is the same: that a country in free association is not inhibited in becoming involved in international affairs.

89. In a situation of sustained autonomy, the degree of sustenance is essential and must be defined, particularly for internal consideration within the former administering Power. One approach would be to consider that free association between New Zealand and Tokelau would give birth to a new polity, thus the assistance provided by the former to the latter would be considered revenue distribution among New Zealand citizens. Participants agreed that in Tokelau's case it would clearly be necessary to spell out the character and the type of ongoing assistance that New Zealand would provide, in a form that would be sufficiently firm for Tokelau. Present levels of budgetary support and project assistance for the Cook Islands and Niue, and the length of time they had been in effect since their respective acts of self-determination, indicated that New Zealand indeed accepted a special responsibility. The "Voice of Tokelau" and the National Strategic Plan also underlined Tokelau's wish to create an internal environment in which it could aim to be as self-reliant as possible.

90. The participants also discussed the perceptions of "sustained autonomy" among the citizens of the sustaining State, and the related political implications. Such considerations would probably limit to only a few remaining Territories the applicability of such a concept as a viable option.

91. The participants also suggested that there may be cause in the future for the United Nations to look into the concept of "sustained autonomy" as an alternative political status for some of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories. Such an opportunity should take into account the fact that under this concept, the questions of sovereignty and integrity do not exactly fall

under the traditional definitions accepted by the United Nations and its Member States.

8. Meeting with Tokelauans abroad

92. The Tokelauans who attended the meeting represented the elders, church leaders, youth and women's groups. They were almost unanimously in favour of more economic development in the Territory and a better infrastructure such as wharfs in the three atolls. They expressed concern over the living conditions of their people and their precarious environment which exposed them to natural disasters such as tidal waves and cyclones.

93. They reported that during the Ulu's visit to New Zealand, he had informed them that Tokelau had already chosen its own form of government and that a national identity was emerging for the first time, giving a sense of nationhood to the three atolls. They were also aware that the new leadership was studying the establishment of a suitable political framework through a working committee on constitutional affairs. The participants in the meeting insisted that they wanted a voice in the internal affairs of Tokelau on the basis of their numbers (three quarters of the total number of Tokelauans live in New Zealand) and their strong links with the Territory. Many of them want to return to participate in the development of the new Tokelau, applying the expertise they have acquired abroad to the unique traditional way of life of Tokelau. In this connection, several speakers called on the United Nations, through the Visiting Mission, to guarantee that they will have a voice in the internal affairs of Tokelau, that they will be consulted on major developments and that they will not be left out of the decision-making process.

94. With regard to the future political status of Tokelau, the speakers supported the choice reflected in the "Voice of Tokelau" and were in favour of free association with New Zealand. They also expressed their concurrence with the holding of a referendum on self-determination as the most democratic means of expression. In general, they also supported the National Strategic Plan but noted that it failed to mention whether Tokelau would proceed with the act of self-determination before the year 2000. The new constitution should clearly indicate the respective responsibilities of both Tokelau and New Zealand, particularly on the question of assistance.

95. In general, the Tokelauans living in New Zealand were in favour of the direction taken by the leadership in Tokelau with regard to constitutional developments leading towards a future act of self-determination. They wanted to make certain that the people understood fully the implications of the changes and asked for assurance that they would continue to be kept informed of developments and have a voice in the decision-making process in Tokelau.

III. OBSERVATIONS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

96. The Mission noted that the people of Tokelau are fully aware of the unique characteristics of their Territory and the serious handicaps that could arise from such factors as size, remoteness and vulnerability to natural disaster. The Mission had ample opportunity to observe the fragility of the ecosystem and the scarcity of land and resources.

97. Tokelau is heavily dependent on imports for its basic necessities and is not yet equipped to undertake a programme of economic development to significantly lessen this dependency in the foreseeable future. The Mission noted, however, that the people of Tokelau were engaged in a substantive debate over this question and were making efforts towards the identification of areas of potential development, taking into account their limited technological capacities and lack of skilled personnel.

98. The leadership on the three atolls stated emphatically that the building of a solid economic foundation was an objective of the highest priority in their advance to full internal self-government. Tokelauans were conscious of the importance of external assistance, particularly from the Government of New Zealand and from the United Nations.

99. The Mission was told repeatedly that Tokelau could not survive in its present form without the level of financial support it was receiving from New Zealand and that consultations were under way to seek assurances that that support would be maintained, together with free access to technical expertise in all fields, including environmental protection.

100. The people of Tokelau recognize that they will have to overcome their financial handicap and other obstacles in their march towards full internal self-government. They realize that ultimately they will exercise their right to self-determination. They are ready and willing, although not without a natural apprehension, to continue evolving politically, economically and socially.

101. The Mission had the opportunity to see firsthand the initial results of the devolution of powers from the Administrator to the General Fono and to the Council of Faipule when the Fono is not in session. It is of the opinion that the cautious approach adopted by the representatives of the people is more appropriate to their particular situation. The members of the Mission noted the active participation of all Tokelauans in this gradual process and commended their desire for all Tokelauans to be included in the decision-making process.

102. The National Strategic Plan, which contains the principles that will chart the course for the nation of Tokelau, is a document of great importance and is highly valued by the leaders of Tokelau. The Mission took note of, and studied carefully, the contents of the Plan which emphasizes the preservation of the values, beliefs and culture of Tokelau. The clear identification of the strengths and weaknesses of the people of Tokelau is a vivid testimony of their maturity.

103. The Mission noted the fact that Tokelauans upheld the principles laid down in the National Strategic Plan: belief in a life of interdependence where the less fortunate are cared for; participation in the inati system of sharing resources; involvement of every member of the community in the affairs of the Territory. It also noted that the document emphasizes the fact that all undertakings in Tokelau would be planned to meet the expressed wishes of the people while preserving the rights of all individuals.

104. The people of Tokelau are gaining confidence in their endeavours and, as proclaimed by the Ulu-o-Tokelau, are determined to follow the course of nation-building. This is illustrated by their decision to properly utilize the Council of Faipule as an important link between the people, the taupulega and the General Fono. They are aware that some changes will be necessary in order to enhance the quality of the management of their affairs and they are working on improving the procedures for selecting able representatives.

105. Speaking with one voice for the first time through a national leader - the Ulu-o-Tokelau - they stated that they recognized their position in the contemporary international world and accepted the privileges and responsibilities attached to that position. They expressed their readiness to assume more responsibilities for their internal self-government. They had already taken important steps in that direction, such as the relocation of the public service to Tokelau and the assignment of ministerial responsibilities to the Faipule. They were also restructuring the Tokelau Public Service and were devising a better system of accountability. In this connection, the Mission agrees with their view that achieving greater internal self-government is a necessary step on the path to self-determination.

106. The Visiting Mission took note of the fact that the act of self-determination is now under active consideration by the people of Tokelau and that they have a strong preference for a status of free association with New Zealand.

107. The Mission also noted that Tokelau has not yet set a timetable for the exercise of the right to self-determination and does not consider time as a determining factor in its decision-making process. The Mission was informed that Tokelau's current priority is to improve the effective functioning of its primary political institution, the General Fono, and of the more recently established institutions, the Council of Faipule and the system of law commissioners or lay judges.

108. The Mission noted the absence of a modern means of disseminating information both within and between the atolls. Such a facility should be provided as soon as possible to keep the people abreast of developments involving their future and to help them communicate and exchange views. It would also enhance the degree and level of participation of the people in the decision-making process, as recommended in the National Strategic Plan.

109. The Mission noted with satisfaction the commitment of the Government of New Zealand to meet its obligations to the United Nations with respect to Tokelau as well as its obligations to the people of the Territory. The Mission

also noted the willingness of the administering Power to allow constitutional developments in the Territory to proceed at a pace agreeable to the people.

110. The Mission took note of the fact that the Government of New Zealand had made a firm commitment to continue to provide development assistance, including budgetary support, and to allow free movement of people from Tokelau to New Zealand while regulating the movement of people from New Zealand to Tokelau.

111. The Mission noted the desire of the people of Tokelau to continue to hold New Zealand citizenship, and the assurances given by the Government of New Zealand to continue to grant citizenship to Tokelauans in New Zealand and in Tokelau.

112. Tokelauans raised the issue of Swains Island with the Mission, which transmitted this concern to the Government of New Zealand. The Mission noted the statement by the representatives of the Government of New Zealand that it was looking at ways of approaching this issue, bearing in mind the interests of the people of Tokelau.

113. The Mission fully agrees with the representatives of Tokelau that communication is of vital concern and of fundamental importance to Tokelau's ability to carry out its responsibilities under internal self-government, and that the future of Tokelau depended in large part on this. The Mission recommends the establishment of direct communication between the administering Power and the Territory.

114. The Mission had the opportunity to experience firsthand the hazardous conditions under which passengers and cargo were ferried from ship to shore and recommends that appropriate facilities, including improvement of the access channels and the building of wharfs, should be taken under active consideration. Convinced of the necessity to improve transportation, in particular air linkage with the outside world, the Mission recommends that the administering Power pursue its intention to carry out further feasibility studies for the construction of at least one airstrip.

115. The Mission notes that with the assistance of UNDP/ITU, a sound telecommunications system is progressing satisfactorily and that it should be fully operational by 1995/96.

116. The Mission had the opportunity to assess the assistance - financial, technical and otherwise - given Tokelau by the administering Power, the Government of Samoa, UNDP, WHO and other regional and international organizations. The Mission recommends that this assistance should continue and be increased with the advent of self-government.

117. The administering Power should also ensure that the interests of the people of Tokelau are protected when negotiating matters relating to marine resources, environment and other matters vital to the social and economic well-being of the Territory.

118. The Mission recommends that the administering Power, upon Tokelau's request, should facilitate its admission to membership or associate membership in the various specialized agencies and regional organizations.

119. In conclusion, the Mission noted during its visit that the people of Tokelau, speaking through their representatives, were all in favour of assuming more responsibility in conducting their own affairs, and that they were well on their way to building nationhood and becoming self-governing. They indicated that they were actively considering the exercise of their right to self-determination. For the time being, their preference, expressed unambiguously, was for a future status of free association with New Zealand. The exact content and nature of this free association will be a matter of further discussion.

Notes

1/ United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 1643, pt. I, p. 28231; United States Treaty and other International Agreements 10775.

2/ The local currency is the New Zealand dollar. As at 26 August 1994, NZ$ 1.00 was equivalent to US$ 0.60.

Annex I

SOLEMN DECLARATION ON THE FUTURE STATUS OF TOKELAU
("Voice of Tokelau"

Delivered by the Ulu-O-Tokelau on 30 July 1994

UNITED NATIONS VISITING MISSION : TOKELAU'S VOICE "NEW WIND, NEW WATERS, NEW SAIL - THE EMERGING NATION OF TOKELAU"

GREETINGS AND WELCOME

Mr Chairman and members of the United Nations Visiting Mission

The Administrator of Tokelau and representatives of the Government of New Zealand

The esteemed Elders of Tokelau

The Council of Faipule - the Executive arm of the Government of Tokelau

The Pulenuku of Atafu, Nukunonu and Fakaofo

The Representatives of the Women of Tokelau

The Representatives of God's work in Tokelau

PREAMBLE

1 Chairman and members of the United Nations Visiting Mission, you have now visited all the three atolls of Tokelau and according to our forefathers, sailed past the fourth. You have met with the leaders of Atafu, Nukunonu and Fakaofo. They would have spoken with you about matters to do with their own atolls, and about recent developments. Their dreams for their children now, and their children's children of tomorrow. Many of these dreams will remain dreams and no one atoll can meet the needs of all of its people. Thus today, we come together as Tokelau. You will have learnt from the last three days however, that the very survival of Tokelau rests on the strength of the institutions of the three villages. It is fair that you would have gained an appreciation of the core of Tokelau.

2 In all of the previous Missions, after talking with the leaders of the three atolls, that would have been the end of the visits. But in the year 1994, things are different. For the very first time in its history, and on its own soil, Tokelau is talking to the United Nations as one people, and one nation. This is a true reflection of Tokelau uniting as one. We are very happy that this has taken place. We are honoured, and we thank the United Nations for accepting the invitation, and the Government of New Zealand for extending the invitation on behalf of Tokelau.

3 Tokelau cannot escape the fact of wanting to control its own destiny. To shape this destiny. This is assisted by a new confidence - a new assertiveness in the matter of Tokelau's identity. The main example of these changes in attitude is expressed through a political identity. The new sense of nationalism within with the Council of Faipule approach their responsibilities. The senior public servants serve their Ministers. It is an expression of a change that is as much social, cultural and political and its best trial is its economic survival in the future.

4 Tokelau is keen to halt the process of erosion of its cultural norms. The cultures and traditions of Tokelau is its "mana" or authority. These emanate from the three villages or nuku, and they are the foundation stones of Tokelau society. They are the building blocks of our nation. We want to build a nation born of the people. From the hands of the weavers and the carvers. From the sennit of the tautai or the master fishermen. From the base of the pou or the pillars of meeting houses. From the smiles and the swaying of the main dancers and the drumming of the beat of the chief drummer. In the pursuit of making its act of self determination, Tokelau is determined that it should not undermine its social, religious and cultural values. For as Pablo Neruda said in his celebrated poem - "The People" : "Everything will pass, you will still be living. You set fire to life. You made what is yours."

5 Tokelau is also keen to halt the process of over-reliance on imported sustenance. We have recognised the harm that these products is doing to our people. The tendency to use external organisational structures especially those that undermine "The Tokelau ways" must be curbed. It is a fine balancing act, for we must also advance. Tokelau aspirations can be achieved only through the proper interaction with external forces especially the Government of New Zealand and the United Nations. It is vital therefore that these external forces understand Tokelau. Mr Chairman, we hope that this visit have gone a longway in doing just that.

6 Recent political developments in Tokelau have been well documented. Members of this Visiting Mission hosted Tokelau's Special Representative at its meeting of 24 May 1994 in New York. The Administrator of Tokelau, on behalf of the administering power, also addressed this same meeting. Both of their addresses have given you an update of recent developments in Tokelau, especially on the political front. The administering power has also, we believe, transmitted to you and other members of the Special Committee, information on the administration of Tokelau up to April 1994 - including the Administrator's Annual Report

for the year ending June 1993. For ease of reference, we made available to you copies of the following documents on your arrival in Apia, Western Samoa at the Tokelau Apia Liaison Office.

- Council of Faipule's message to the Committee of 24 of April 1994;

- Statement by Tokelau's Special Representative to the United Nations Sub- committee on the Situation with regards to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, New York, May 1994;

- Statement by the Representative of New Zealand to the United Nations Sub-committee on the Situation with regards to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, New York, May 1994;

- Tokelau's submission to the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Islands Developing States.

7 Of more recent significant developments, we held a National Fono last month. In this Fono, the country endorsed its first National Strategic Plan referred to substantially in the Statement by Tokelau's Special Representative to you of May 1994. We have many dreams and hopes contained in this document. It is a rudder for Tokelau's canoe for the next five to ten years. Tokelau will also have a Constitution. This will provide the trunk from which a new canoe to carry Tokelau into the next century will be carved. Further references to this Constitution is found below. Likewise, Tokelau will have a national flag by the year 1995. These developments further demonstrate the commitment of the rowers of the new Tokelau double-hulled war canoe to the task at hand.

8 This then is the background from which we approach our meeting here today. From which I, as the Ulu of Tokelau, on behalf of the National Fono, Council of Faipule, the Working Committee on Political and Constitutional Development, the elders of Tokelau, the special representatives of Tokelau who are gathered around this table and all of the people of Tokelau - submit to you the voice of the Government of Tokelau. Before we talk about what must now become Tokelau's blueprint for negotiating its act of self-determination, there are a number of important trends that I should like to refer to as they are significant developments. This is especially within the context and circumstances in which Tokelau finds itself as it considers its journey over the next two to three years.

THIS SETTING

9 Tokelau notes the "sensitive awareness" of the Special Committee on the Situation with regards to the Implementation of the Declaration on the granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to - "The fact that the process of decolonisation had entered a new and complex phase, which demanded innovative approaches to challenges facing the remaining dependent Territories."

10 Tokelau also notes the Committee's recognition of some Territories having made "remarkable progress towards self-reliance and enjoyed a high standard of living, while others continued to suffer handicaps arising from such factors as sizes, remoteness and vulnerability to natural disasters, the fragility of their ecosystems, heavy dependent on imports and a small number of commodities, weak indigenous technological capacities, and a lack of skilled personnel."

11 The latter part of these observations very much reads like Tokelau, and further more these hard facts are unlikely to change in the near future, while some will not. However, Tokelau agrees with the Committee's view that the "question of territorial sizes, geographical isolation and limited resources, should not constitute an obstacle to the exercise by the people of the non self-governing territories of their right to self-determination."

12 Tokelau certainly wishes to assert its identity, but the sureness of this stance must be supported by a realistic capacity for Tokelau to operate from a solid foundation. Many aspects make up this foundation. A good solid economic foundation is an aspect that is uppermost in our minds. Tokelau's observation of its near neighbours' endeavours in making their act of self-determination, is that it has not been easy for them. It has been a struggle, and indeed one could argue that rather than becoming "independent", many have become more "dependent" especially economically.

It has not been easy for them to build up an economic base more so because they are often subjected to natural and man-made disasters, difficulties in the international market for their commodities and recessions in the economies of their traditional donors often reduced incomes. Tokelau does not want to be in this condition as a result of making its act of self-determination.

13 At the beginning of the "International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism", Tokelau's Special Representative told members of the Committee of 24 in New York: "Unlike other

countries", for example, (the recent case of the Namibia) and New Caledonia, Tokelau is not a "colonised" country. New Zealand cannot be accused of violating human rights, taking land and abusing indigenous rights. Nor can it be said that the Government of New Zealand is hindering our path towards self-determination. There are of course "hiccups" but these exist in any relationship."

14 These "hiccups" now more than ever take on new meaning as Tokelau now will have on the table the very serious and exciting business of consideration its act of self-determination. Moreover, Tokelau has taken special note of the acknowledgement by some of the participants to this Committee's 1993 Port Moresby seminar namely that: "for many very small non self-governing island territories, the real enemy was the fear of future neglect. They considered that the Special Committee should focus not only on how soon their colonial status can be terminated but on how they can be assured that they will have the right to maintain their own special identity and at the same time receive the continuing economic and other assistance on which their well-being depends."

As the Ulu o Tokelau for the year 1993, Faipule Salesio Lui told the members of the Special Committee, again at the Port Moresby seminar: "We want to take on the burden of running our own affairs to the greatest extent possible. We want to assert our identity in the region and as much as possible in the international arena. To this end we shall be reflecting on political experiences of similarly placed neighbouring countries. We want the benefits that civilisation has to offer."

15 This then is the challenge that is now facing Tokelau! Next month the Executive arm of the Government of Tokelau, the Council of Faipule, will be embarking on a four nations study tour of its near neighbours to observe for ourselves lessons to be learnt there. It makes a great deal of sense to see how and what we can gain from co-operating with our neighbours.

However, it must be noted again that they too faced similar problems of keeping head above water. Besides, Tokelau has been approached in the past about "integrating" with either Western Samoa or the Cook Islands. Our elders at that time rejected these proposals, and Tokelau's position at the present time is still the same. In wanting to make its act of self-determination, Tokelau is saying that it wants to be self-reliant to the greatest extent possible but being acutely aware that economically - it cannot survive on its own without the continuing financial support of the Government of New Zealand and the international community.

16 Let us now look at those areas that Tokelau would wish to have addressed significantly before it formally makes its act of self-determination. In so doing, let us fully acknowledge that Tokelau is compelled to consider seriously its act of self-determination by virtue of the United Nations timetable for granting of independence to colonial countries and people by the year 2000. Tokelau wishes to take full advantage of this situation especially as it is consistent with its own goals - to be self-reliant to the greatest extent possible. The people of Tokelau are fully aware of the limitations of how much she can do to help herself. The United Nations, the Government of New Zealand and the international community have recognised this. The following pre-requisites are the combined desired needs of the people and Government of Tokelau. These will form the blueprint for the road to self-determination towards the year 2000.

TOKELAU'S SELF-DETERMINATION TOWARDS THE YEAR 2000

17 Tokelau recognises its position in the contemporary international world and accepts the privileges and responsibility of that position. In this context Tokelau is anxious at an early date as possible to take on more responsibilities for its internal self-government. Achieving greater internal self-government is deem a necessary step on the path to self-determination and the attainment of a legal identity to match its feeling of cultural uniqueness.

THE CONSTITUTION OF A SELF-GOVERNMENT

18 The Constitution of a self-governing Tokelau is now under active consideration by the people of Tokelau both as a matter of importance in itself and also as an aspect of self-determination in terms of the Charter of the United Nations.

19 The act of self-determination of Tokelau is now also under active consideration by the people of Tokelau. The present indication is a strong preference for:

- a future status of free association
- free association with New Zealand

Tokelau has no set timetable for the exercise of its right to self-determination but does not at this stage see time as a determinant factor in its decision making.

20 Of critical importance to the people of Tokelau are various qualitative aspects of their present and future status. Some of

these matters Tokelau would wish ascertained before any act of self-determination. For others it would seek clarification and assurances as to the post self-determination period.

21 At this stage Tokelau wishes to advance self-government by having a national legislative power to match the newly acquired executive authority and the existing judicial structure. The existence of such a power and the experience of its exercise will greatly facilitate the development of the national consciousness and the national leadership which will better prepare the way for the national exercise of a democratic vote for key issues such as the act of self-determination.

22 Communication are an on-going and vital concern to Tokelau. Security of communications of a kind appropriate to Tokelau's needs, and up to the international standards are fundamental to Tokelau's standard of living and to its abilities to conduct efficient internal self-government. Tokelau's future depends in large part on good communication.

23 Once established, a reliable shipping and telecommunication link may be able to be maintained as part of recurring budget commitment. Tokelau can not in the ordinary way sustain unexpected or natural new demand in these new areas. Tokelau would for instance need special assistance if air services were to be introduced, if a ship has to be purchased, or if charter vessels were not readily available to the Tokelau authorities. These matters will not be within the general resource capacity of Tokelau as currently envisaged.

24 Tokelau would therefore wish its basic transport and telecommunication system to be in place and assured before self-determination.

25 Since 1986 Tokelau has a clear judicial system constituted by New Zealand at the request of Tokelau. Now Tokelau wishes to have consolidation of the legal infrastructure necessary to make the structure fully operative at the local level.

26 After self-determination Tokelau would seek from the New Zealand Government the continuation of those elements of the judicial structure that are currently reliant on the New Zealand judicial structure.

27 In the period before self-determination Tokelau will in consultation with the New Zealand Government seek clarification on a number of issues of territorial moment. Among these are concerns about the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and about Olohega or Swains Island.

All the chiefs of the three atolls of Tokelau made formal representation to a Representative of the Government of New Zealand (the Administrator of Western Samoa) about the latter as far back as 1926, the year in which New Zealand formally began its governance and administration of Tokelau. The chiefs argued that the island belonged to their forefathers and should not have been alienated. It is unfortunate that the statements of the chiefs were not recorded.

28 Tokelau while wishing to have recognised an identity separate from that of New Zealand, would hope to maintain its links to the Queen and the Head of State of New Zealand and to the Commonwealth.

29 Tokelau could not survive in its present form without the level of financial support it currently receives from New Zealand. Tokelau would soon begin consultation with New Zealand about how that support maybe maintained or indexed for the post self-determination period, besides any international measures that may be taken to assure the people of Tokelau of these matters and to give them the confidence to take the next step into their future.

30 Of a similar nature are the various kinds of non-financial support that New Zealand has to date so readily provided. Tokelau have over the years benefitted in a multitude of ways, for example, from expertise provided free to Tokelau from the outside. Tokelau will, in fields such as environmental protection continue to have these needs.

31. Tokelau has limited experience of international affairs and will wish for various resource reasons not to extend that involvement to any great extent. It will be happy to have New Zealand continue to deal with matters of foreign policy and defence as in the past. Tokelau would have New Zealand act on its behalf in these matters subject always to a change on request of Tokelau and after consultation with Tokelau.

32 In treaty matters Tokelau would wish to be informed of treaties that applied to it, but would require no signing or ratifying of the treaty that imposed obligations on Tokelau without Tokelau's prior consent.

33 Tokelau for its part and in respect of those international relations in which it wants to be involved would undertake to incur no international obligations without prior consultation and with the consent of the New Zealand Government.

34 At present Tokelau has special rights in respect of New Zealand citizenship and to freedom of movement to and from metropolitan New Zealand. Tokelau would seek the continuing of the present system. Tokelau acknowledges the present system is not reciprocal but accepts this reflects the resource base of Tokelau.

35 Access to New Zealand has important education and health aspects. Tokelau would wish that the present arrangements could be continued in the future and in particular if restricted facilities become an issue that New Zealand might assist with providing access for Tokelauans to appropriate educational and health institutions.

36 The currency of New Zealand is one form of legal tender in Tokelau. Tokelau would ask that the facility should continue and would be willing to discuss the assurances necessary for their purpose.

37 Tokelau would wish to be legislatively, administratively, and fiscally independent subject only to those arrangements that would be necessary to honour matters in the international related arena.

CONCLUSION

38 These then generally constitute the wishes and the needs of the people of Tokelau. There are bound to be others. They are our hopes and aspirations. These are pre-requisites to self-determination. The period immediately ahead will be hectic. It will present a great challenge to the now localised, lean and more focussed Tokelau Public Service. The Council of Faipule is growing in stature. The National Fono through its Working Committee on Political and Constitutional Developments is to consider at its next session, electing its members, instead of the present system of selection by the Council of Elders. New Zealand, the administering power, is continuing to be guided by the present wishes of Tokelau and will cut the umbilical cord only at Tokelau's request. The majority of our people in New Zealand, are supportive of our endeavours to be more self-reliant.

39 We are delighted and welcome the changing attitude of the United Nations to small countries such as Tokelau. We acknowledge fully the open and supporting attitude of this Visiting Mission. We are deeply grateful for your patience and will endeavour to play our part as we come to consider the fulfilment of our mutual needs.

40 We must, through you, Mr Chairman, express our deep appreciation for the financial support that we continue to receive from a number of UN agencies. These include the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the World Health Organisation (WHO). UNDP in particular have been effective in their funding support.

You have seen for yourselves the manifestation and support in the form of the Water Catchment and the Seawall Programme on all three atolls. Our new telecommunication system (to be fully realised in 1995), stands to gain significantly from funding assistance from the UNDP.

41 We continue to need such support. We have spoken of our endeavours to create a Constitution for Tokelau. The desired objective and expected output of the self-determination exercise is now on the table. We wish to put a formal request to you for financial support for the special and identifiable constitutional endeavours that would be made in the next 2 to 3 years. UNDP may wish to support this.

42 Within the formality of this historical gathering, we must once again recall the deep appreciation of the people and Government of Tokelau to the Government of New Zealand for its continuing support in all facets, but particulary financially. It is too easy to regard and reduce this support within the cynicism of narrow proportions that sensation seekers would have us believe. No, the relation between the two countries is much more solid than that. It is based on mutual respect, respect for human dignity, respect for peace, respect for growth, respect for indigenous rights, respect for justice, respect for responsibility, and a respect for social and economic progress.

43 Mr Chairman, it is said that when the legendary Tokelau brothers, Kalehi, and Tafaki, were asked to record the wealth of their father to the gathering of the people, they then counted out the wealth of their mother - the woman, the "Matua-ha", or the sacred one, the distributor of wealth the "Fatupaepae" or literally, the white stone. She who must go through pain in order for others to survive. When the two brothers stood up this is what they told the people:

"Strike, strike the post - crash crash
Loosen the structure
Strike, strike, the post splintered - splintered, splintered
Loosen the attachments
Hey skipjack! may you frolic in your sea
Frolic wildly, frolic on the surface, frolic belly up;
Creating ripples standing to prey
Because the tail of Kalehi and Tafaki have struck
Hey kingfish, may you frolic in your sea

Swarm in tens, in twenties, in thirties
Swarm madly, swarm to port, swarm to starboard
Because the tail of Kalehi and Tafaki have struck
Hey travelly! may you frolic in your lagoon
One hundred each, two hundred each, three hundred each
Because the tail of Kalehi and Tafaki have struck."

Accounts of the elders tell us that the boys then left the people. They walked. They walked on until they reached the sea never to be seen again. But the people of Tokelau continued to live by the endowment of their mother.

Annex II

STATEMENT BY H.E. MR. AMOR ARDHAOUI, CHAIRMAN OF THE VISITING MISSION TO TOKELAU, JULY 1994

We are all very honoured to have been chosen by the Special Committee of 24 to visit your beautiful country and to bring to you the greetings of all 184 Members of the United Nations. Let me also tell you how proud I am that my country, Tunisia, is chairing the mission to Tokelau. I would like now to introduce the other members of the Mission: H.E. Mr. Utula Utuoc Samana, Permanent Representative of Papua New Guinea to the United Nations; Mr. Andrew Bangali (Sierra Leone), Vice-Chairman of the Special Committee of 24; and Ms. Cecilia Mackenna (Chile), Vice-Chairman and Rapporteur of the Subcommittee on Small Territories, Petitions, Information and Assistance. From the Secretariat of the United Nations: Mr. Nour Eddine Driss, Principal Secretary of the Mission, and Ms. Carole Davis, Secretary for the Mission.

We have been travelling for many days to reach these shores to impress on you that no matter how small your islands, no matter how limited your population and resources, and no matter how remote your location, we at the United Nations consider your well-being to be as important as that of any country or any people which we represent. Allow me to tell you, on behalf of the Visiting Mission, how flattered we are by your invitation and we hope that during our short visit we will be able to respond to your questions and to work with you on a fruitful programme guided solely by the paramount interests of the people of Tokelau. This visit is an opportunity for us to see firsthand the developments which have taken place since the last United Nations Visiting Mission in 1986.

The Government of New Zealand has always shown an exemplary attitude in its dealings with the United Nations regarding the sole Territory under its administration, Tokelau. I will take this opportunity once again, a we so often did in New York, to acknowledge the positive contribution and the cooperation of the Government of New Zealand with the United Nations, and particularly with our Committee. The representatives of the Government of New Zealand have always stated that their Government's policy with regard to Tokelau has been to foster its development while ensuring that the people do not lose their strong cultural identity, and to avoid economic over-dependency.

In 1986, when we last visited you, Mr. H. H. Francis, the Administrator at the time, said that his Government's policy was that Tokelau should eventually undertake an act of self-determination and that New Zealand was preparing the Territory for such a step at a pace acceptable to the people. He also assured the Mission that New Zealand had no intention of influencing the Tokelauan choice of future status and mentioned that his Government was aware that Tokelau would never be expected to be financially independent.

Since that statement made eight years ago this month, many things have taken place in Tokelau and a series of changes and developments have transpired which have surely affected your daily life. We would like you to give us your opinions with regard to these changes and how you cope with them. Through the help of New Zealand and your representatives who have visited New York several

times since 1986 in order to testify before our Committee (I am referring to the visits of Faipule Fatia Perez and Falani Aukuso in 1986 and 1990, respectively), we have followed closely the events taking place in Tokelau.

The Subcommittee on Small Territories, Petitions, Information and Assistance listened with great interest to the presentation made by the current Administrator, Mr. Lindsay Watt, who also has been with us now since our arrival at Apia. We have benefited from his experience and from his intimate knowledge of the affairs of Tokelau. Among other things, he told us that you Tokelauans are in the process of tackling the important question of Tokelau's future and that you are making the connection between strategic planning and a meaningful act of self-determination, a vital act which needs to be approached with an open, and even ingenious, mind.

In May this year, the Special Representative of the Council of Faipule, Mr. Logotasi Iosefa, gave us this message:

> The delegation of the powers of the Administrator of Tokelau to the General Fono and the Council of Faipule when the Fono is not in session, on 27 January 1994, means that the responsibility for the affairs of Tokelau is in our hands. That for most things, we are answerable to no one but the people of Tokelau. We are not afraid of this responsibility, but we realize that this is by no means an easy load to carry. Since our last message to the Committee in May 1993, our shoulders and resolve have strengthened.

We also have learned that Tokelau is going through a period of great and unprecedented change both politically and in its public service. The General Fono has become the paramount decision-making body in Tokelau and the members of the Council of Faipule now assume ministerial responsibility for government departments. We have been informed that many reforms took place in June. I am sure that you will tell us all about these new changes and the new responsibilities which you now assume.

In the course of the next few days, we hope to see as many Tokelauans as possible and discuss questions which are of immense importance to you. This will help us in our discussions with the New Zealand authorities and will assist us in relaying your true and freely expressed wishes to the United Nations.

Mr. Iosefa informed us during his visit to New York in May that the General Fono had set up a working committee on constitutional developments in order to prepare Tokelau's submission to the United Nations Visiting Mission. We are eager to be apprised of the findings of the working committee and its conclusions as endorsed by the General Fono with regard to the question of Tokelau's aspirations for self-determination.

Whatever status you choose, we will do our utmost to recommend that the United Nations and its specialized agencies should continue to provide you with the necessary assistance to foster your economic and social development and enable you to meet your needs in the coming years.

I can assure you that the Committee continues to keep an open mind on whatever Tokelau's decision might be regarding its future political status. It is our hope that our stay amongst you will be fruitful and that our discussions and exchange of views will wisely guide your future decision as to your relationship with New Zealand. We will report your hopes to the United Nations, your fears and your expectations for a better life and a secure future for you, your children and future generations of Tokelauans.

Annex III

ITINERARY AND ACTIVITIES OF THE VISITING MISSION

Date	Place	Activities
Friday, 22 July	Apia	Arrival from New York
		Meeting with representatives of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the World Health Organization (WHO)
		Meeting with the Manager of the Tokelau-Apia Liaison Office
Monday, 25 July	Apia	Meeting with the Ulu-o-Tokelau and the Manager of the Tokelau-Apia Liaison Office
Tuesday, 26 July-Wednesday, 27 July	At sea	En route to Tokelau
Thursday, 28 July	Atafu	Arrival from Apia
		Meeting with the Council of Elders and the people of Atafu
		Tour of the village
		Visit to Matauala School. Meeting with the Director of Education
		Visit to the Kileva Fisheries
		Departure for Nukunonu
Friday, 29 July	Nukunonu	Arrival from Atafu
		Meeting with the Council of Elders and the people of Nukunonu
		Visit to St. Joseph Hospital Tour of facilities and meeting with the Medical Director
		Visit to the Women's Centre
		Tour of the village
		Departure for Fakaofo

Date	Place	Activities
Saturday, 30 July	Fakaofo	Arrival from Nukunonu
		Meeting with the Council of Elders and the people of Fakaofo
		Meeting with the General Fono
		Departure for Apia
Sunday, 31 July	Apia	Arrival from Tokelau
Monday, 1 August	Apia	Meeting with the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance of the Government of Samoa
Tuesday, 2 August (crossed the International Date Line)	Apia	Departure for New Zealand
Wednesday, 3 August	Wellington	Arrival from Apia
Thursday, 4 August	Wellington	Call on the Associate Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade
		Call on the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade
		Call on Leader of the Opposition, and Mr. David Lange, former Prime Minister
		Call on the Chairman of the Foreign Affairs and Defence Select Committee
		Discussion with Tokelau Public Service Commissioners
		Meeting at Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade
		Call on Mr. Frank Corner, former Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade
Friday, 5 August	Wellington	Round Table at the Law Commission attended by members of the Commission, the Tokelau Public Service and Ministry representatives
		Meeting with Tokelau community representatives from Auckland, Rotorua, Taupo and Wellington regions
		Mission concludes its work

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ATAFU
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